

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 6 and 11-26 are currently being canceled.

Claim 1 is currently being amended, whereby the features of now-canceled claim 6 have been incorporated into claim 1.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment amends and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-5 and 7-10 are now pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter made with respect to claim 6. By way of this amendment and reply, the features of claim 6 have been incorporated into presently pending independent claim 1, and thus claim 1 is now in allowable form. Claims 2-5 and 7-10 depend from base claim 1, and thus those claims are also in allowable form.

Claim Rejections:

In the Office Action, claims 1-10 and 16-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,246,672 to Lumelsky; and claims 11-15 and 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lumelsky in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,825,759 to Liu. Due to the amendment made to presently pending independent claim 1 so that it now includes the features of "objected to" claim 6, and due to the cancellation of claims 16-24, these rejections are now moot.

Please note that Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejections made in the Office Action, whereby Applicants reserve the right to prosecute claim 1 (prior to being amended) and the other claims under rejection, in a continuation or a divisional application. The amendments made in this application are essentially to obtain a quick allowance of this application.

Indication of Consideration of Information Disclosure Statements:

The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate consideration of the references submitted to the PTO in an Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 5, 2003, and in an Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 5, 2004, by returning an initialed copy of the Form PTO SB/08 (or Form PTO-1449) submitted with those Information Disclosure Statements.

Conclusion:

Since there are no other objections or rejections raised in the Office Action, Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

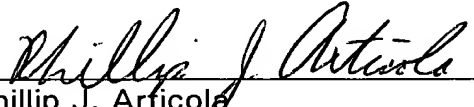
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date September 1, 2004


Phillip J. Articola
Registration No. 38,819

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Washington Harbour
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20007-5143
Telephone: (202) 672-5300
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399